



City of Arts & Innovation

PRESS RELEASE

Police Department
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RIVERSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS “MINOR DECOY” OPERATION

Riverside, CA – On December 5, 2017, The Riverside Police Department's Vice Unit conducted a minor decoy operation in the City of Riverside. Each minor, under the supervision of police detectives, would enter an establishment and attempt to purchase alcohol from an employee. The minors were directed to show their California driver's license, California identification card, or tell the employee their age if asked.

The operation, occurring over a four-hour period, was conducted at twelve businesses with no businesses selling alcohol to a minor. Had a sale occurred, each sale to a minor is a criminal offense and the business is subject to administrative penalties by the Department of Alcohol Beverage Control, including having their license to sell alcoholic beverages suspended or revoked.

When the Minor Decoy program first began in the 1980's, the violation rate of retail establishments selling to minors was as high as 40 to 50 percent. When conducted on a routine basis, the rate has dropped in some cities as low as 10 percent or even below.

This program is funded by a grant from the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) through the department's Grant Assistance Program.

